

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

POLICY

No. F-3

Adopted: June 24, 2009

Amended: April 18, 2018

Amended: April 25, 2023

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

District Expectations

The Board of Education believes that a positive school and district environment promotes respect for the dignity of individuals and the diversity of the school community; respect for the property of others; a drug, alcohol and smoke free environment; intolerance of bullying and harassing behaviours; and solutions which provide for non-violent conflict resolution. The Board believes that safe and inclusive environments are necessary for students to learn and achieve and for staff to support student learning. Discrimination is not part of such an environment. Therefore, the Board is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from all forms of discrimination. As a result, the Board supports and endorses the values and objectives contained in the *Canadian Multiculturalism Act*, the *BC Multiculturalism Act*, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the BC Human Rights Code, and in its strategic plan.

Schools in partnership with staff, parents and the community will develop:

- A written school code of conduct which encompasses both legislative requirements and the District values that shall be provided to all students. A copy of the school code of conduct shall be filed with the office of the Superintendent of Schools.
- Plans of action which include governance, prevention and intervention which will consider the needs and concerns of all members of the school community.
- Opportunities to facilitate students and staff acquiring the knowledge and skills which build positive interactions and avoid violent confrontations at school; and
- Reflective and proactive practices which model positive classroom and school interactions and maximize the learning opportunities for all students.

The Board supports the following:

- Each student, regardless of their sex, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression (as outlined in the BC Human Rights Code) enjoys a safe, inclusive and welcoming learning environment.
- Everyone has responsibility for their own actions.
- Everyone has the right to engage in a restorative discipline process when appropriate.
- Everyone has the right to be respected and the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

- Everyone has the right to be free from physical, verbal, and emotional abuse.
- Everyone has the right to feel supported in reporting unsafe conditions, actions or potential incidents, without fear of retaliation.
- Everyone has the right to have their property respected.

Student Code of Conduct

While on school premises, going to and returning from school and at all school sponsored games and functions, whenever and wherever held, every student shall be subject to the code of conducts established by the school and the District. Each school shall establish and implement a *School Code of Conduct* consistent with the *Provincial Code of Conduct Order* and the *District Code of Conduct*.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

REGULATIONS

No. F-3

Adopted: June 24, 2009
Amended: April 18, 2018
Amended: April 25, 2023

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

PROCEDURES:

School Code of Conduct Shall:

- Clearly define behavioral expectations, including restorative processes arising from a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- Be communicated to students and families (in written form) at the beginning of each school year.
- Be displayed in prominent areas in the school.
- Be posted on the school website.
- Be reviewed annually at the beginning of each school year.

School-Wide Conduct Standards

- Schools will develop standards for a school-wide conduct plan to help create a positive, successful, and safe environment for teaching and learning to take place.
- Clear expectations for student behaviour should be supported by disciplinary processes that are preventative, progressive, and restorative.
- School-wide conduct plans shall:
 - Be developed in consultation with students, staff, and parents;
 - Protect the rights of students to learn;
 - Protect the rights of parents to be informed;
 - Emphasize prevention;
 - Establish clearly defined behavioral expectations to maintain and support the appropriate behaviour of students; and,
 - Define the process for teaching and promoting expected behaviours.
- School code of conducts shall reference the BC Human Rights Code and state that every person is protected from discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.
- The District expects that principals will ensure that due process is followed in the development of school rules and that procedures model fairness, equity, and the respect for students' rights.

- The principal is responsible for communicating school rules to students, staff, and parents during the month of school opening each year, and as required throughout the year.

Code of Conduct Guidelines, Employees, Parents and Public

- Breaches of the Code of Conduct by employees shall be investigated by the appropriate supervisor and where necessary and deemed appropriate, the supervisor will follow procedures outlined in the relevant collective agreement or personnel services contract.
- In the cases of parents or the public, breaches shall be investigated by the principal. Where the conduct of a parent or public is deemed inappropriate by the principal, they shall take appropriate steps to ensure such conduct is not repeated.

District Review Committee

- The purpose of the District Review Committee (DRC) is to ensure that all avenues for success have been explored for students, especially students at risk of not completing.
- The DRC is to be comprised of the assistant superintendent, the district principal of student support services and one school based administrator.
- Attending a DRC meeting will be the committee, referring school principal, parent/guardian, student and advocate or support staff, as appropriate.
- All referrals to the DRC shall be made to the assistant superintendent.

Student Suspensions

Principals and vice-principals, directors and superintendents or designates are authorized to suspend students in accordance with this policy and to take other disciplinary action to that of a kind, firm and judicious parent.

Students are expected to comply with the school and District codes of conduct, the school rules authorized by the principal, and other policies and regulations authorized by the Board and may be suspended from school for non-compliance.

Generally, student suspensions will occur only after interventions of a lesser form or alternate methods of discipline have been utilized. It is recognized, however, that there may be occasions when the behavior of the student is sufficiently serious to warrant a suspension, even though no previous disciplinary actions or other interventions have taken place. When a suspension is initiated, an opportunity should be provided to parents to meet with the school administrator to discuss the student's conduct and related matters. As well, an alternate educational program will be provided, interventions will be outlined, and a plan for re-entry will be developed.

At the time of any suspension verbal notification, including the reasons for and length of the suspension, shall be provided to the parents or guardians with written notification to follow. The principal or designate shall attempt to ensure the safety of the student until the parent or guardian is notified. The written notification shall also inform the parent or guardian of the access to appeal to the Board.

When the principal considers that a student has committed repeated or serious breaches of the District code of conduct, school rules, or other policies or regulations authorized by the Board; or the principal considers that the conduct of the student warrants a suspension more than 5 days, the superintendent or designate will be notified.

The superintendent or designate shall provide the parents and/or student with the opportunity to meet to review the circumstances related to the suspension as well as the student's prior disciplinary record, academic progress record, assessments and other pertinent information. The superintendent or designate may give any direction they consider appropriate.

Should the parents wish to appeal the decision to suspend the student to the secretary treasurer or designate, the Board of Education will convene a hearing to determine whether there has been a significant impact on the student's health, safety or education as a result of the decision. If the Board deems that any of one of the three areas has significantly affected the student, the Board shall provide the parent and/or student with an opportunity to address the Board in accordance with its appeal bylaw. The Board shall decide on the appeal and may take one or more of the following actions:

- Confirm the suspension or consequences set out for the student;
- Vary the length of the suspension or any conditions of the suspension;
- Reinstatement the student to the school;
- Reinstatement the student to school with conditions;
- Place the student in another school or program; and/or
- Provide services appropriate to the student's needs in another manner.

The superintendent or designate shall inform the parent and/or student of the decision of the Board of Education.